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Hello everyone! There have been exciting developments for the COVID-19 vaccination and today we will provide a brief overview of the developments and what this means for Canadians. During a previous Friday post, we outlined some front runners of the vaccine race, amongst those are two that we will be discussing during today's post.

Both Pfizer and Moderna have pulled ahead in the race to the COVID-19 vaccination and Canada has secured doses of both vaccinations. Each have exhibited promising effectiveness, with Pfizer reporting 95% efficacy, and Moderna reporting 94.5% efficacy. Currently, there are conflicting numbers on exactly how many doses of each vaccination will be received per province, however the Canadian government has signed deals for a minimum of 20 million doses from Pfizer, and a minimum of 56 million doses from Moderna. Each of these vaccinations are similar in storage types and distribution types: they must be stored in cool temperatures and require 2 doses administered via injection, 21 days apart. Pfizer's vaccine has to be stored at -70 C and can be stored for 5 days in refrigerator temperatures, whereas Moderna can be stored at refrigerator temperatures for 30 days, or -20 C for 6 months.

The method of administration raises questions on who is placed for priority administration of the vaccination. There has been a general consensus amongst health officials as well as governments that the first vaccinations will be administered to those with the greatest risk. This group includes the elderly, frontline workers (ie, medical staff, first responders, caregivers), as well as people with underlying health conditions. Other groups will be determined by province with assistance from the federal government. The most efficient way to reduce the transmission of the virus is to vaccinate people that are in contact with the most people. This premise could extend the primary distribution groups to retail populations or grocers.

There is a difference between regulations that vaccinations go through in Canada and the United States, so even if the vaccinations are approved through the American regulation of USFDA, that does not mean that Health Canada has approved its usage in Canada. However, once these become approved by Health Canada, the distribution will likely proceed how we've outlined above.

Until then, it's up to us to ensure that we all remain healthy! Continue with physical distancing and hand washing, continue to be patient and kind to one another.

Until next week!

North Yorkers for Disabled Persons